NUMB. XXX.

The GUARDIAN.

——*redeunt Saturnia Regna.* Virg.

Wedneſday, April 15. 1713.

THE *Italians* and *French* being diſpatched, I come now to the *Engliſh*, whom I ſhall treat with ſuch Meekneſs as becomes a good Patriot; and ſhall ſo far recommend this our Iſland as a proper Scene for Paſtoral under certain Regulations, as will ſatisfie the courteous Reader that I am in the Landed Intereſt.

I muſt in the firſt place obſerve, that our Countrymen have ſo good an Opinion of the Ancients, and think ſo modeſtly of themſelves, that the generality of Paſtoral Writers have either ſtoln all from the *Greeks* and *Romans*, or ſo ſervilely imitated their Manners and Cuſtoms, as makes them very ridiculous. In looking over ſome *Engliſh* Paſtorals a few Days ago, I peruſed at leaſt fifty lean Flocks, and reckoned up an hundred left-handed Ravens, beſides blaſted Oaks, withering Meadows, and weeping Deities. Indeed moſt of the occaſional Paſtorals we have are built upon one and the ſame Plan. A Shepherd asks his Fellow, why he is ſo pale, if his favourite Sheep hath ſtrayed, if his Pipe be broken, or *Phyllis* unkind? He anſwers, None of theſe Misfortunes have befallen him, but one much greater, for *Damon* (or ſometimes the God *Pan*) is dead. This immediately cauſes the other to make Complaints, and call upon the lofty Pines and Silver Streams to join in the Lamentation. While he goes on, his Friend interrupts him, and tells him that *Damon* lives, and ſhows him a Track of Light in the Skies to confirm it; then invites him to Cheſnuts and Cheeſe. Upon this Scheme moſt of the noble Families in *Great Britain* have been comforted; nor can I meet with any Right Honourable Shepherd that doth not die and live again, after the manner of the aforeſaid *Damon*.

Having already informed my Reader wherein the Knowledge of Antiquity may be ſerviceable, I ſhall now direct him where he may lawfully deviate from the Ancients. There are ſome things of an eſtabliſhed Nature in Paſtoral, which is eſſential to it, ſuch as a Country Scene, Innocence, Simplicity. Others there are of a changeable kind, ſuch as Habits, Cuſtoms, and the like. The difference of the Climate is alſo to be conſidered, for what is proper in *Arcadia*, or even in *Italy*, might be very abſurd in a colder Country. By the ſame Rule the difference of the Soil, of Fruits and Flowers is to be obſerved. And in ſo fine a Country as *Britain*, what occaſion is there for that Profuſion of *Hyacinths* and *Peſtan* Roſes, and that *Cornucopia* of foreign Fruits, which the *Britiſh* Shepherds never heard of! How much more pleaſing is the following Scene to an *Engliſh* Reader!

(Price Two Pence.)

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